

# PVRC Newsletter October 2000

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PVRC NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2000

## PVRC CALENDAR:

Weekly Wed

BWI Regional weekly breakfast. Wednesdays 7:30 am,  
Basil's Deli, Elkridge Landing Rd near BWI.

Monthly

Over-the-Hill Luncheon. TBA. See reference page.\*

Oct 5 Thu

PVRC/NC meeting at Ryans.

Oct 9 Mon

Central meeting at Vienna VA location. See reference page.\*

Oct 10 Tue

Central VA meeting jointly with CVCC. See reference page.\*

Oct 13 Fri

Carroll Co Group meeting 7:30 pm at AK3Z, John Chesley, 749 Skyward Drive,  
Westminster, MD. Talk-in on 145.410 neg split

Oct 17 Tue

Northwest meeting at Tully's Grill, Frederick. See reference page.\*

Oct 17 Tue

Tidewater Colony meeting night. See reference page.\*

Oct 21 Sat

Rappahannock meeting at 10:00 am at K7SV

Oct 27 - 29

CQWW SSB DX Contest. 8 PM EDT Fri to 7 PM EST Sunday (clocks change)

Nov 4 - 5

ARRL CW Sweepstakes. 4 PM EST Sat to 10 PM EST Sun

Nov 18 - 19

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes 4 PM EST Sat to 10 PM EST Sun

Nov 24 - 26

CQWW CW DX Contest. 7 PM EST Fri to 7 PM EST Sun

\*The reference page is included in the paper edition but is excluded from the electronic edition. It is posted as a separate document at [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org)

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James A. Murry, Jr., W4TKR, of Alexandria, VA suddenly and unexpectedly became a silent key on August 5, 2000. Jim was one of the operators at Dick Phelps' multi-op station W4KXV. (Dick is now N4RP in FL.) Jim did SS from his modest home station.

Info from W3AZ  
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SOUTHERN VA HAMFEST MEETING, 8/5/00 by Jerry Haislip, K1SO

The SW group of PVRC signed in while visiting the Roanoke Valley Hamfest. Signing the roster were, Mike/N4GU (sporting a new PVRC T-shirt), John/W4JAM, Susanne/W0MAN, Anthony/WM3T (ex-KU4RG), Shilynn/KF4OKG, Buddy/W4YE, Phil/K4EP, Gordon/K1GG, Mark/N2QT and Jerry/K1SO. It was a great turn out for members of the PVRC from around the area.

Phil/K4EP has photo of his trip to the NC islands where he contested. Very interesting antenna setup was shown. Phil said that he and some friends had a very successful contest trip and plan to return.

At 1:30 pm the SW-PVRC held a meeting, Jerry/K1SO presided (John/K4IQ/SW group coordinator was unable to attend). Buddy/W4YE recommended PVRC bring Ray Crampton/AB4YZ in to our group, since this was his qualifying meeting. Ray/AB4YZ is an avid contester and will be an asset to the group. Shilynn/KF4OKG seconded the recommendation. Buddy/W4YE then gave, Ray/AB4YZ, his welcoming speech, which is always interesting.

We talked about the picnic at John/K4IQ's QTH on August 26th. Information will be sent out via e-mail or radio.

The meeting was adjured at the request of Anthony/WM3T and seconded by Shilynn/KF4OKG. All returned to complete a successful day the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest and Computer show. Welcome to Ray Crampton/AB4YZ our newest member of PVRC.

ANNUAL FOWLFEST 8/12/00 by Brian McGinness, N3OC

The annual PVRC fowlfest was held on Saturday, August 12 at one of the many QTHs of Marty, W3YOZ. Fowlfests are notorious for hot and steamy weather, and somehow Marty was able to arrange the nicest weather we've had in many years.

There was a brief PVRC meeting at 3pm.

The following members signed in:

N4ZH, K4VV, N1WR, WR3Z, N3OC, WB3AVN, W3AZ, KC3VO, W2GG, K1HTV,

N4QQ, WF3J, K3AN, W3AZD, WB3ANE, K3GV, W3MR, W3KN, K3DI, K2PLF, W3UR, W3FRG, W3YOZ, N4MM, N3JT, KE3Q, N4MO, W3OQ, W3OU, W2YE, W3UJ, K3ZO, W3MC, N3UM, W3LPL, W3AMY, N3OPM, and W3XE.

Vasily, UA6AN has attended his second meeting and is eligible for membership. He prefers to wait until he has obtained his US callsign. Please welcome him to the USA and to PVRC.

A short president's report was given though minutes were not taken.

PVRC/NC MEETING MINUTES 8/19/00 by Pete Soper, KS4XG

The meeting was at the K2AV residence near Apex from 3:00-6pm.

Attendees: Guy K2AV, Brian K3KO, Bob K4HA, Jim K4QPL, Henry K4TMC, Pete KS4XG, Howie N4AF, Bert N4CW, Joe NA3T, Gary W2CS, Joyce Olinger, Jenny and Emily Soper

Notes: There was no club business, just good food and plenty of rag chewing this time. Thanks to K2AV and his wife Joyce for great hospitality.

Many new towers springing up in the NC chapter this year. KI7WX is putting up two, K2AV, K4QPL, N2NFG and W0UCE are each putting up one (K4QPL tower is complete by now) and K4HA has just completed a second tower at his QTH.

PVRC/NC MEETING MINUTES 9/7/00 by Pete Soper, KS4XG

The meeting was held at Ryans Family Restaurant in Cary from 5:30-8pm. We'll be at Ryans the first Thursday of the month through April this year, special dinner meeting in May, cookout in the Summer TBD.

Attendees. Will AA4NC, Guy K2AV, Brian K3KO, Bob K4HA, Jim K4MA, Jim K4QPL, Mark KI7WX, Brent KO4PY, Pete KS4XG, Bob N2NFG, Dan N3ND, Jeff N3NPQ, Bert N4CW, Jeff NX9T, Gary W2CS, Will WJ9B, and Jim WW4M.

Membership. Membership remains at 37. We're sad to report that Dan N3ND is moving back North to take a new job in Maryland. But best wishes Dan!

Announcements.

1) We wish a speedy recovery for Jack W0UCE who is under the weather.

2) TAKE PART IN SWEEPSTAKES! PVRC lost the championship last year by a small margin and there will be a hard battle to take it back. Call the chapter members you know to attend the October and November meetings if needed to catch up with ARRL requirements and qualify to send points in for PCRC. For some strategy help see AA4NC's Sweeps paper here:

<http://w4atc.ncsu.edu/ss/tuneup.htm> YOU can make the difference this year!

3) Merri AB0MV (ex-KF4OAD) and Glenn AE0Q were happily married in the Boulder Colorado area a few weeks back. We wish this "CW couple" a happy life together.

4) N3QYE is now WW4M. Jim's new callsign is for rent, first taker is W4ZV for WPX. Jim has done a super job on the chapter web site and was given an ovation for his hard work. Note the contest calendar of 5mil contest events Jim has put here: <http://www.pagesz.net/~pvrcnc/calendar.htm> Also, after attempting to set a new record for durability at NC State University Jim completed the requirements for his masters degree in Forestry.

5) The plain blue text version of the club badge is the one the majority of us preferred. The badges have been ordered and will be distributed to all NC chapter members in November. Contributions to WW4M are welcome to fund badges for new NC chapter members (Jim is at [\[email protected\]](#) ).

6) The chapter web site is moving. The plan is to move the site to a system NA3T is bringing up if Joe can tame the wild sendmail and if not there are other alternatives. KI7WX will be sponsoring a domain name to point to the new site so we don't have to squint around for the tilde keys.

For Sale.

1) N3ND has an LK500ZC for sale. There is a problem with a 160m capacitor but it's otherwise in good shape. [\[email protected\]](#)

2) KS4XG has a 2el Gem Quad for sale. Excellent condition with spare spreader and cross braces but needs new element wires. Separate RG11 transformers and coax coil baluns for 10, 15 and 20m, remote coax switch. Also an IC735 with dual Inrad 2.1khz filters, 250hz filter and hand mike. Also a TS830 with outboard digital VFO and outboard speaker and CW filters. [\[email protected\]](#)

Chapter member news.

K2AV has a tower base and first section of his Trylon T400 up. The plan is to put a C31XR on it and perhaps a 40el yagi too.

W2CS reports all antennas survived the Summer weather adventures.

AA4NC was not as fortunate. Will reports one radio, the TIC rotor, one 40m yagi out of action from lightning. He's planning on repairing the yagi with a crane this time.

N3NPQ has put up an R7000 vertical to use with his TS50 and has plans for a six meter yagi. Jeff has an FT100 in his car now.

K4QPL is enjoying his new tower and reports the 40m wire antenna WW4M designed for him is working very well.

N2NFG is looking for a gin pole for his new tower. He plans to put a Lighting Bolt quad up.

W9JB described an ALC problem on CW with his TS950 and sought advice about a computer configuration problem.

KI7WX has cured concrete bases for new Rohn 55 and 25 towers with plans for a monobander collection. Mark will be handling SSB at the W6EEN station M/S for CQP and invites all PVRC members to join in the fun on both modes.

K3KO sold his Titan and bought an ACOM.

KS4XG lost three PCs, stereo and telephone gear, and had his TS850's computer interface smoked by lightning. Recovery is almost complete and a lot of APS surge protectors are in place now. An A4S will be going up to replace the Gem Quad on the AB577. The C4 at 70' is playing well and the M/S setup is coming together.

NX9T is in his new house with 2.1 acres and has a base hole dug. He's starting work on a new station room. Jeff would appreciate any advice about free standing towers like the Trylons.

N3ND has been enjoying PSK and beta testing the new DX4WIN release.

N4CW will be in Maine until early October. Bert just got his paper for 325 DXCC countries on CW.

K4HA has been doing tower work and has a second one up at his home. It's 60' of Rohn 25G and Bob currently has VHF and UHF yagis on it. Bob also arranged for an AB577 which he'll be mounting on a trailer for Field Day and other events.

KO4PY cracked us up with a description of his "Single/Multi" effort in a recent QRP CW contest. With three Wonder Labs 1w rigs, three custom keyers, three keys and speaker audio from all the radios going at once Brent's big challenge was ear-hand coordination.

K4MA reports now lightning damage and noted that N4CW followed him across all bands during NAQP. Jim said he was nipped out by AA4NC because Will employed his then secret "Dixie Chicks Strategy" for the contest off times, opting for watching the girls play while Jim went for more time on the low bands, which were not so hot this time.

Somebody mentioned Barry's Cafe at Tryon and Holy Springs Road as having a nice quiet meeting room for future meetings were we need this.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday October 5th at

Ryans in Cary. Come at 5:30 for rag chewing, meeting starts at 6.

PVRC RAPPAHANNOCK MINUTES 10 SEP 00 by Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV

Let's start with an editorial comment - It's Friday 15 Sept, the temperature is 72 degrees with a slight breeze from the north and low humidity. It's most appropriate that it smells and feels like the contest season - there are no less than 7 contests running this weekend.

In attendance: K3RV, K4ZW, K4EU, (Y)K1SE, WA4RRU, NR4M and K7SV. The meeting was held at the QTH of Ken K4ZW. Following brief discussion on club elections the group got right into activity planning for the contest season.

While the Rap group has normally done a multi from NR4M in the cw sweepstakes, K4ZW suggested that we increase the club score by doing two multi's, one from NR4M and the other from his QTH. To be discussed further with all of the regular ops.

Also, discussed was the current popular topic, score reduction. Some of the NR4M scores have been substantially reduced mostly as a result of bad calls in the log. There are any number of reasons that a bad call has been logged and Steve doesn't want to chastise any of the ops. On the other hand, the operators who were present indicated that they would like to know if they are putting bad calls in the log regardless of reason. If all ops agree before a contest starts at NR4M, we'll use the feature in WriteLog that allows us to put the name of the current operator in the log and we'll let the ops know of any bad calls associated during their time behind the key. The group then went around the room to discuss contest plans and anything new.

K4ZW has been gearing up for both CQWW modes from home. Outside he built a second 5 el yagi and stacked it below the existing 5 el on 15. He built a new operating bench using NR4M Grape Ape construction techniques. In addition to his trusty TS940/Alpha, he has adorned it with an FT1000MP/QRO Tech amp. When he's done building the WriteLog board, he's almost ready for two radio contesting. We won't discuss what happened to his bandpass filter!

NR4M is looking at doing CW SS, CQWW, ARRL DX, and WPX multis from his qth this year. Need to check all the antennas and do a few minor repairs. Spent a good number of days with several of the group at Vint Hill Station removing 540 feet of AB105 to the 70 acres near Fredericksburg VA that will be the new home to NR4M. Also accumulating CATV cable for the new station.

K7SV rebuilt his 486 upgrade computer to a 500mhz machine and is very pleased with how well DX4WIN and WriteLog work now. He did it primarily to get RTTY working correctly, but after wiring the audio for that mode found it very easy to set up the voice keyer

feature in WriteLog. Works great so, to the chagrin of Mrs. Larry, you'll probably hear him more in rtty and fone contests.

(Y)K1SE, Kareem aka Bill says we need a summertime cw contest to activate NR4M. He's in dire need of a cw fix! Don't know what he's complaining about. He worked the A52 operation with 100 watts and an indoor antenna!

Visitor but very welcome member Karl K3RV will probably do ARRL and CQ DX contests single band from VA and the CW contests from W3LPL.

K4EU Enjoyed the IARU contest. He's preparing to put up a tower and triband quad. More points!

KA4RRU has been very QRL with two young and wonderful children. He's starting to get back on VHF and also did a few hours in the CQ RTTY contest this year. Wants to make an effort in the ARRL RTTY Roundup.

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 21 Oct 10:00AM at the qth of Larry K7SV. Meeting adjourned and gang enjoyed burgers and hot dogs. Thanks Ken and Sue for the great hospitality.

CENTRAL MEETING MINUTES 9/11/00 by Brian McGinness, N3OC, Pres.

The September meeting was called to order at 7:30 in Temple Hills, MD by Brian N3OC, after some had dinner at Mama Stella's. (NOTE: Topileno's is rebuilding and may be open by the November meeting.)

The following members were in attendance: WR3L, ND3A, N3OC, N3RR, WR3Z, KE3Q, N3RC, N3HXQ, W3LPL, W3HVQ, W3DQ, K3ZO, WK3I, K4VV, W3TOM, W3YOZ. W3DQ's vistor was K8MN/5H3US/A22MN.

N3OC gave the president's report. The fall contest season has begun, with the Sept VHF contest being the first 5m award event. Many more members are earning their 5m awards this year, with 32 new plaques and 15 endorsements on order!

Sweepstakes is coming up. PVRC lost last year by one big log, or two average logs, or three small logs, depending on how you want to look at it. Many of us have said it was their fault for one reason or another. Please do all you can this year, and we should be fine. If you don't have a place to operate and would like to, please contact your regional coordinator for help.

The holiday dinner is tentatively planned to be at the Olive Garden in Tysons Corner again this year. I have not made any arrangements yet, and plan on doing so this month. If you are interested in making a slide or powerpoint presentation, please contact me so we can work you in the planning.

Jack, K4VV gave the vice-president's report. He reports his wife

has been ill, so his time has been limited. He is working with WX0B to bring Jay to the DC area for a presentation on stacking at a PVRC meeting sometime next year.

Dave, WR3L presented the treasurer's report, and a balance sheet. He asked everyone to send in their donations, and thanks everyone who has. (We have 32 new 5m plaques to buy this year!)

Bill, N3RR gave the election manager's report and volunteered to help again this year as the representative of the trustees. He reported that all of the current officers indicated their desire to continue for another year. No other nominations for officers were received.

A discussion of the trustees was held. The by-laws require we elect at least three, but allow for more. The past president is usually a trustee as a courtesy. The duties of the trustees, as defined by the by-laws, are to resolve disputes, make policy, and nominate a slate of officers and trustees to be elected each year.

As a result of the discussion, it was decided to elect more than three trustees this year, and that the additional trustees would come from the outlying regions. Therefore the following additional trustees for 2001 were nominated from the floor: N4AF (NC), N4ZR (WV), W4ZYT (TW), W4MYA (CV), and K4IQ (SWVA) in addition to last year's trustees N3RR, KE3Q and K3MM.

N3OC will be contacting the additional trustees to confirm their acceptance. There was no new business, so war stories were told the remainder of the meeting.

K4VV took a lightning hit (as did many others) and lost one radio, some computers, and a rotor controller.

WK3I has a new IC756 pro he is trying, and has no new antennas and no lightning.

K3ZO was on for the VHF contest, and noted the usual good propagation just before the contest. He also reports all HF antennas 100% ready and a new prop pitch motor has been installed.

WR3L is putting up a new 90' tower, and looking forward to the new contest season.

N3RR brought his "V26B Top Gun Award" plaque to show everyone. Each year, the V26B group (N3OC is a member) gives a plaque to the first single-op to work them on all 6 bands, and last year it was predictably N3RR. (You would be surprised how early this happens in the contest, always in the first or second hour.) Bill also took a lightning hit, losing a zener diode in 4 out of his 5 ring rotor controller boxes.



WR3Z worked the VHF contest at W3YOZ's mountain QTH in PA. He was also involved with skywarn training in southern Maryland, and is working on helping to extend the packet system further into southern Maryland.

KE3Q has been busy with twins "dot" and "dash". Rich went to WP3R for ARRL CW, and will be back there for sweepstakes. He is also still working on his new QTH.

W3YOZ worked the VHF test from his mountain QTH in PA, which is always under construction. This year featured all the logs being on computer, but it also featured no 2m station (that's the equivalent of suicide in a VHF contest!) thanks to a lightning hit. He has also started installing HF antennas at that QTH.

N3HXQ had his third child in June, and has managed to put his new C4SXL up anyway. It still needs some tweaking.

Dave, K8MN/A22MN lives southeast of Wheeling, commuting to Reston, Va. He is still assembling his antenna farm, and recently came back from 5H.

W3LPL has been finishing his 15m 6/6/6 150' rotating tower. The tower is done, the booms are up, and the elements are about to go up.

W3HVQ has been working on his 5m award, and has finally made it (6.8m). He took a break from radio, cranked in his bumbershooter and went to the state fair and fishing a few times. He is working on getting a B-29 prop pitch motor working as his rotator.

W3TOM has been travelling and diving. Tom has a new Force 12 antenna on the way. He has been working with WR3Z on getting the skywarn training for the three southern Maryland counties.

W3DQ plans repairs to his tribander, and getting a permanent 160m antenna up, as well as some receive antennas.

ND3A is back from Maui and is looking for a car, a place to live, and looking forward to contesting from back home.

CVCC/PVRC MEETING 9/14/00 by John Youell, WA4QDM.

Our first meeting of the 2000 DX season was a nice one, with 10 or 12 for dinner at the "Greek" and 18 for the meeting. The following were in attendance for the meeting: Ellen (KD4DRZ) and her XYM Ronnie (WU4G), Bob (W4MYA), Bob (W4DR), Bob (NK4H), Roy (WK4Y), Becky (KS4RX) and her XYM Tony (KC4AUF), AC (W4HJ), Barry (KF4QQY), Jon (W4HZ), Pete (KK4VN), Tom (N4ZJ), Dennis (N4DEN), Ralph (N4EHJ), Parke (KG4GLU) and his 12 year old son Andrew (KG4GNL), and this author (WA4QDM).

After intros, including our new 12 year old guest DXer (! iċĳ that

counts as one meeting for contest purposes ï¿½ for you too Dad-!)  
there were several packet updates:

..The downed ï¿½lightning rodï¿½ in Fï¿½Burg has been replaced at  
K4GMH. The 2m computer at KG4W is on it's last leg or worse ï¿½  
W4MYA may have a replacement  
..W4HZ node ï¿½ may have a coax loss problem  
..N4EHJ ï¿½ sez "if all else fails" the 58 freq. Has always been a  
life saver!

Bob, W4DR, briefly talked about the trip that he and I made to  
the VACC in August, when Bob was the guest speaker doing the 50  
years of ham radio presentation that he did for the CVCC in  
January. The presentation was well received by that group ï¿½ they  
meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month and are a very nice bunch; so  
if you happen to be in Va. Beach on that day of the week, look  
them up.

Several of our members (and the club) were recognized for  
significant contest results:

CVCC ï¿½ new record in the Va. QSP Party for Club Competition!  
W4MYA ï¿½ multiple top 10 finishes as SOHP and M/M  
KS4RX ï¿½ 1999 QRP WPX SSB ï¿½ 4th Call area  
WU4G ï¿½ 10m ARRL CW ï¿½ 4th call area  
W4HZ ï¿½ 10m ARRL Phone ï¿½ 4th call area

Not recognized, (by accident on my part), were the new PVRC 5  
Million award winners: W4HJ, W4HZ, W4DR ï¿½ thanks guys, for your  
significant help to PVRC in the contesting effort!

Ronnie and Ellen mentioned the possibility of a Special Event  
operation for the "American Cancer Society Walk for Life 2001"  
with a 1x1 call. A show of hands indicated that interest is  
there and they will proceed with getting a call.

The consensus of the group was that we need to move out on  
getting a reservation for the Christmas Dinner. Everyone was in  
favor of Jim Green making the recommendations for the group  
(guess it pays to come to the meetings, Jim ï¿½ hi).

AC is looking for people with HTs to help with Security and  
Communications at the RIR Pork Fest (there may be a free meal  
here)!

Tony, KC4AUF, has been "Elmering" several new hams and having  
success and personal satisfaction with their progress. He meets  
with the locals on Wednesday nights at 8pm on 145.430. Tony has  
given "on-the-air" talks about kit building, antenna construction  
and DXing and has provided "on the air" CW skeds. Keep up the  
good work Tony!

Bob, W4MYA, brought his newest rig and gave a presentation on the  
FT-1000MP Mark V for the group tonight. He liked the DSP, 200

watt output (gotta make those amplifier tubes glow, you know it's no heat in the shack!), RF gain behind AF gain control and screws on right rear cover (for easy install of filters). He didn't like the placement of key buttons, i.e., split, notch, etc. Stay tuned for more reports it's this rig is still a "baby" at Bob's and hasn't seen combat.

This author, WA4QDM, did a brief slide show of the current solar flux / sunspot situation it looks like we may not be peaked out yet! At least if we are at the peak, we are several months past earlier predictions.

SOUTHERN MD MEETING 9/14/00 by Barry Shapiro, WR3Z

The Southern MD region of PVRC held a meeting on September 14 in conjunction with the monthly Southern Patuxent ARC club meeting. In attendance for PVRC were Wayne (N1WR), Tom (K3DSP), and Barry (WR3Z). In this abbreviated meeting, several topics were discussed.

N1WR provided the group an update on the Packet Cluster. Work in process continues in establishing a node at Wayne's home in Lusby (southern Calvert county) along with one at Marty's (W3YOZ) in Churchton. Anticipated completion for this project is October.

K3DSP put in several hours in the VHF contest and has submitted his score to W2GG. Tom continues to work new countries and has added to his DXCC total. His cards will be checked at the Bowie hamfest. Congrats Tom!

WR3Z also operated in the VHF contest, from the W3SO site by Altoona. Despite losing 2 meter activity completely due to antenna problems, contacts were made with the 6 and 432 antennas. With Marty and Jack (K4VV) having purchased amplifiers for 2 and 432, things are progressing quite well with the VHF station. Looking to purchase a Lunar Link 6M amp by December and complete more tower and antenna additions from FN00.

All are anxiously awaiting contest season to come in full bloom with CQWW SSB. Look forward to seeing everyone who can make it to the Bowie Hamfest.

OVER-THE-HILL LUNCHEON 9/20/00 by Bill Leavitt, W3AZ

The Over The Hill Group met on Wednesday September 20, 2000 at the Best Western in Oxon Hill, MD. Those attending were AA4XU, W3XE, W3ABC, K3Z0, K3WX, AND W3AZ. Fine food and conversation were enjoyed by all.

SIGN-IN SHEET, BOWIE FARFEST 9/24/00 via Brian McGinness, N3OC

ND3A, WR3Z W3RFC, N3OC, KV3R, K3GEG, NA1DX, W3GG, K1DQV, KF3AA, N3KTV, W3LPL, K3UT, K6LEW, W3IKE, K2YWE, K3DSP, K3Z0, W3LEO,

W3NRS, ND3F, KA3EJJ, W2BZR, N3YDT, W3OU, KD4D, K3GV, KT3Y, W3UJ, N3TG, N3GM, and N3VM. (W3YD, N3WKE, and N3WK also attended. editor)

MM0LEO, SCOTLAND - 24 October - 16 November 2000.

Leo, W3LEO, will once again be active from Portpatrick in southwest Scotland from about 24 October - 16 March 2000. However, Leo states that this is again a vacation and not a DXpedition and "time on the air will depend on the antennas, on propagation, and on when the nearby pubs are open, HI..." He will use his new Scottish callsign MM0LEO and plans to be in the CQWW SSB Contest. He will use an Icom 706 (100 watts), an R-5 vertical [10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters], and a Cheltenham Communications HFV-1 helical wound vertical for 40 & 80 with 5 slinky radials. He "may" try and get on PSK-31. QSL via his CBA (with SASE) or via bureau.

IOTA: EU-005 [Great Britain]; CQ Zone: 14; ITU Zone: 27; Grid Square: IO-74ku; WAB Square: NW-95.

Notes: The nearby pub is 27 steps from the front door of the cottage. Some URLs: Cheltenham Communications: <http://www.chelcom.com/html/hfv1.html>, Moir Cottage [MM0LEO's QTH]: <http://www.moir-cottage.co.uk/>, Harbour House [the pub's location]: <http://www.harbourhouse.co.uk/>

TWO RFI PROBLEMS SOLVED by Pete Soper, KS4XG  
(Edited from a PVRC reflector post of 8/12. editor)

1. Over the weekend I picked up a little 12v halogen light kit from Home Depot that provides three disk-shaped 12v AC 20w lights that were going to be perfect to put under a shelf to shine down on the workbench in my hamshack. I was listening on 15 meter phone as I plugged these lights in. There was a BLAST of pink noise out of my radio that completely wiped out the guy I was listening to.

2. Last Fall while preparing for a CQWW effort over at N4AF I was slapping together some switches for manually selecting Dunestar bandpass filters. In an overly clever moment I wired in blinking LED's that were intended to be an indicator meaning "notice that you've got a bandpass filter inline, stupid" (i.e. until I could arrange automatic switching). As a last minute test of everything before packing the car I hooked it all up and got engrossed in K1DG in the Caribbean working JAs. Suddenly, I noticed this obnoxious noise meandering through the passband. Then it came back. Further testing showed that I had something generating terrible RFI that was "sweeping" through most of the HF bands over and over. I suspected one of the new wall wart power supplies but a half hour later I had found the culprit: the blinking LEDs! I haven't revisited this to see if the RFI can be easily filtered or not. But frankly, I haven't been tempted to design a blinking LED into anything since then.

## SLOW PROGRESS AT K3DI M/M by Dick Wilder, K3DI

The Annapolis Crew of PVRC was formed to increase interest in contesting in Anne Arundel county, help build stations, and help with staffing M/M stations in this area. In February, K2YWE, W3OQ, K3NY, N3UM, K3AN, W3OU, and WA0QII attended a Crew meeting while W3ICM, W3UL, W3MC, and N3WZR expressed interest. Progress has been slow in upgrading K3DI from a single position station to a three position multi-multi.

A third tower (100 feet of Rohn 45) for a new Force 12 C-31XR is not up because of two issues.

1) I had wanted to put one set of guys onto an undeveloped wooded lot behind us but the owner (an elderly woman who hasn't seen her 7 lots in 20 years) has been approached by a developer who can put in a road with the result her earlier "maybe" has migrated to a "no." As a result, I recently identified a location to place the third tower though it will need to use short spaced (63%) guying to squeeze onto our lot and be closer to the #2 tower than I would like.

2) Last month, while landscaping (which included installation of a fish pond for the XYL, Martha) was being done, I installed 60 feet of 4" Sch-40 PVC pipe to carry cables under gardens and lawns to the first tower from where the cables will go over land to wire antennas and towers #2 and #3. The pipe has spare RG-14/U runs.

Only one of the three operating positions is reasonably equipped as a contest station using an IC-737A, Alpha 87A, TH-7DX and 40-CD2 on separate 80 foot towers, and wires for 80 and 160. The two expansion positions are equipped with modist radios that can be frequency controlled by CT9 (I'm using Caribbean DXpeditions radios: IC-735, FT-900cat, and TS-50) though perhaps they can be augmented by guest rigs. These two positions are equipped with Heath SB-221 amplifiers and share wires and trap verticals. The plan is to use four computers (all running MS-DOS 6.22 and CT9+); the extra computer will be for management, training, and feeding packet to the network.

The two expansion positions are not really ready for aggressive contesting but may be sufficient for members to get up to speed with CT and the mechanics of a M/M operation while generating more points for PVRC. Operators at any experience level are wanted for M/M (M/S in SS) operation in all HF contests listed on the "Reference Page" from now through the March ARRL DX 'phone. The only requirement is to be a member and have attended two meetings prior your operating. An outdoor smoking area will be provided. [\[email protected\]](#) 410-757-6706

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Columbia Amateur Radio Association (CARA) will present the

24th annual Howard County Hamfest on October 8th from 8am to 3:30pm at the Howard County Fairgrounds on Route 144 in West Friendship MD. Talk-In: 147.135+ <http://www.qsl.net/cara>

S C O R E S by Bob Dannals, W2GG

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Changes/additions/deletions  
via [\[email protected\]](#) only  
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### = missing information

ARRL September VHF QSO PARTY RESULTS (#3 09.25.2000)

CALL	B/P	QSO	MULTS	TOTAL
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SINGLE OPERATOR

W4RX	9/H	677	172	172,000
K3DNE	6/H	588	175	149,450
K2UOP	7/H	430	154	99,946
K3ZO	2/H	420	82	34,440
K3IXD	5/L	252	62	20,088
N3II	2/L	246	52	12,792
N4MM	2/L	135	40	5,400
W3MR	2/L	102	33	3,366
K3DSP	2/L	35	18	630
W3OU	1/L	28	9	252

ROVER

MULTI-OP

K3MQH	4/H	1587	271	545,523
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11 LOGS	TOTAL	1,043,887
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Operators:

K3MQH K3RA N3ZTZ AI3M W2GG N3EYB

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Adaptor Kits  
Reverse Polarity (TNC, N, SMA),  
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and 5 balanced lines

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PVRC QSL Order Form

Time for another order of the popular PVRC QSL Cards!

Accepting orders starting now to place the order in November,  
with cards available in early January. Need to receive enough  
orders for 20000 cards to receive the pricing below.

Cards are a white postcard stock with blue lettering except for  
the callsign which is red. The logo is red, white, and blue.  
The QSO entry block is in a lighter blue to reduce showing through  
when using labels. Use the order form below to get your order in -  
must be received by 11/19.

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Available Fonts for Callsign:

Helvetica, Times New Roman, Castellarmt, and SquareSerif  
(The font samples are in the paper edition of this Newsletter.)

Notes: Do not use Helvetica font if you have an "I" on either side  
of your call number. BrushScript looks good with some calls and  
horrible with others.

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\*\*\*\*\* QSL CARD ORDER FORM \*\*\*\*\*

CALL \_\_\_\_\_  
CALL FONT (see above) \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
NICKNAME (73, \_\_\_\_\_)  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
"BRAG" LINE (2 lines of 35 characters each max.)

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ITU ZONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CQ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_  
GRID SQUARE (if desired) \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL LOGO? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

MINIMUM ORDER IS 1000 CARDS.

QTY DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE \_\_\_\_\_  
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Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Price	S&H domestic	S&H foreign
1000	\$49	\$6	\$14
2000	\$91	\$10	\$20
3000+	\$44/1000	\$5/1000	\$10/1000

SHIPPING & HANDLING\* \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

\* Only include if you want the cards mailed.

They may be picked up for no charge at the Central or  
NW regional club meetings. Make check payable to Craig Lee,  
and mail check and order form to:  
Craig Lee N3NT, 8136 Tamar Dr., Columbia, MD 21045

Any questions?  
Call me at (410)379-0288 or Packet Cluster or [\[email protected\]](#).

THIS MONTH, REFERENCE PAGE CAN BE FOUND AT:  
[WWW.PVRC.ORG/REFERENCE](http://WWW.PVRC.ORG/REFERENCE)